



The McAuley Lecture Series

McAuley lectures are organised by Annalee Thomas, our more able co-ordinator. They are offered to all OLA students, helping to fulfil one of our four key values *'to develop independent thinking and a love of learning'*. Pupils enjoy talks, offered on Tuesday lunchtimes. Speakers from all walks of life give a talk on their specialism. The programme is extremely varied: from designing vaccines to Japanese Samurai; from American Politics to Birdwatching.

Through the series, pupils are challenged to think about areas of interest they may never have encountered, or expand their understanding of something they already know.

At OLA we understand that learning is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of life. Our intention is that OLA students become more knowledgeable, more curious, more interesting, and more interested people through their experience of these talks.





Michaelmas term 2021



5th October

Dr Beth Reynaert *Where is the Science in Art? Where is the Art in Science?*

"The greatest scientists are artists as well," said Albert Einstein. Likewise, Art has long contributed to the work and communication of Science. Beth will explore how, at the most basic level, both artists and scientists strive to see the world in new ways, to comprehend what they're seeing, and then communicate that vision.



12th October

Daniel Gibbons *Is the Lord of the Rings a Christian novel?*

Is Christianity a central theme in The Lord of the Rings? The Head will discuss the religious values in the books.



19th October

Helen Holden *-Art and Popular Culture*

Helen will look at a particular city in a particular epoch where art and popular culture (cinema, books and architecture) have collided.



2nd November



Tim Lawson - *The Politics of COVID*

Since March 2020 the UK political system has come under daily scrutiny for how they have dealt with a situation like no other in the past 100 years. Who were the key players? Did they do a good job? How will history reflect how our political institutions dealt with this world changing crisis?

9th November



Professor Sunetra Gupta - *Developing Vaccines*

Sunetra is professor of Theoretical Epidemiology in the department of Zoology at Oxford University. Professor Gupta will be discussing the evolution of diversity in pathogens and the challenges this diversity presents to vaccine development.



16th November



Joseph Cregan - *Do we have a purpose?*

For many philosophers, the world is purposive. For example, the purpose of an acorn is to grow into a strong and sturdy oak tree; the purpose of a book is to be read. Do we have a purpose? If so, what is that purpose and how might it be achieved?



23rd November



Freddy El Turk - *Blockchain, AI and the use of new technologies*

Freddy has a diverse background and wide experience in business, education and technology. He is the founder of Vizidox Solutions Limited and Morphotech Limited. Freddy will discuss the use of Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Brain Computer Interface (BCI) and Machine Learning (ML)

in modern computing.





30th November

Rose Gwillim-Thomas - *Buildings for the Future*

Rose is an early career Structural Engineer with the Canadian based Engineering consultancy WSP. She will discuss what it takes to design buildings and how through looking at key trends in climate change, society, technology and resources they can be built ready for both today and the years to come.



7th December

Michael Noone - *The Zoo next door*

Michael will discuss the keeping and caring for creatures that need our understanding and help. They have amazing stories to tell, some more unexpected than others.